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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/526,936 | 03/08/2005 | Hans Peter Rath | 266598US0PCT | 7557 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 04/01/2008 | EXAMINER | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | BULLOCK, IN SUK C | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1797 | |
| | | | NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 04/01/2008 | ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/526,936 | RATH ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | In Suk Bullock | 1797 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed 12/27/07 added new claims 5-14 and is hereby entered.

There was no amendment to the previously presented claims 1-4. Thus, claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see specifically page 7, 2nd full paragraph, filed 12/27/2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication 2003/0088135 A1 (hereinafter "Pub '135").

Pub '135 discloses a method for producing high reactive polyisobutene having 300~5000 number average molecular weight (Mn) in the presence of a catalyst comprising secondary alkylether, tertiary alcohol, and boron trifluoride wherein the amount of boron trifluoride catalyst is 0.05~1.0 weight part per 100 weight part of isobutene in raw material, the ratio of secondary alkylether:tertiary alcohol is 0.5~1.2 and the ratio of secondary alkylether and tertiary alcohol:boron trifluoride is 1.0~2.0 (page 2[0018] and page 3[0026]). Secondary alkylether used include dialkyl ethers (page 3[0021]). The tertiary alcohol disclosed is having 4-20 carbon atoms such as tert-butanol (page 3[0022]). The polymerization conditions disclosed are temperature in the range of -50° C~20° C, pressure greater than 3 kg/cm² (~3 bar), and the contact time of approximately 5-180 minutes ([0032-0033]).

The difference between the claimed invention and Pub '135 is that the claimed ratios of catalyst components overlap.

Overlapping ranges are *prima facie* evidence of obviousness. *In re Malagari*, 182 USPQ 549 (CCPA 1974).

With regard to the claimed type of reactors used to conduct polymerization, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have employed any known conventional reactor for polymerization including those claimed with the expectation of reasonable success absent any evidence of criticality.

With regard to the claimed polymerization carried out under isothermal conditions and continuously, it is known to those skilled in the art that it is more efficient and economical to carry out polymerization continuously. It is, also, known to those skilled in the art that polymerization is an exothermic reaction and heat must be removed to maintain constant temperature during the process, i.e., isothermal conditions.

With regard to the claimed dispersity Mw/Mn of 1.5 to 5, since the process of Pub '135 is similar to the claimed process, it is expected that the process of Pub '135 would have yield dispersity Mw/Mn in the claimed range.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: there is no suggestion in Pub '135 to substitute secondary alkyether with the

claimed methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol or 2-butanol as a component of a catalyst. Furthermore, no other prior art was found to disclose or suggest employing the claimed methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol or 2-butanol along with tertiary alcohol as components of a catalyst system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to In Suk Bullock whose telephone number is 571-272-5954. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Calderola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/In Suk Bullock/
Examiner, Art Unit 1797